

the trip was to find larvae of *Coleophora milvipennis* Zell. Col. Emmet had taken some here on birch the previous year. We all succeeded in finding specimens but they were not common. Other larvae found were *Coleophora artemisicolella* Braund on *Artemisia vulgaris* (Mugwort) and *C. potentillae* Staint. on *Potentilla erecta*, the latter being a new food-plant record to all of us.

On the 29th October I went to East Blean with Col. Emmet. The main purpose of the trip was to look for larvae of *Coleophora wockeella* Zell. but we could not even find its foodplant, namely the Wood Betony. Larval cases of *C. olivaceella* Staint. were found on *Stellaria holostea*. Some seedheads of *Solidago virgaurea* which we collected produced larvae of *Eupithecia expallidata* Doubl., *Oidaematophorus bowesi* Whalley, as well as some unidentified *Phalonid* larvae. On the hazel bushes we found larvae of *Coleophora fuscocuprella* H.-S., but they were very local on a few bushes only. We were particularly interested in small larvae found living in silk tubes covered in frass on the hazel leaves. These were fairly common and some were found on leaves of *Castanea sativa* (Spanish Chestnut). The silk frass-covered tubes were on the undersides of the leaves and perhaps some reader can tell me what species is responsible.

(To be continued)

A New Aberration of *Pieris brassicae* (Linn.) Lepidoptera, Pieridae

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INTRODUCTION

In May 1967 two males of a new aberration appeared in a laboratory culture of *Pieris brassicae* Linn. maintained at Chesterford Park Research Station, Saffron Walden, Essex. Attempts at breeding from the two individuals were unsuccessful.

The culture maintained at Chesterford Park was derived from that of the A.R.C. Unit of Insect Physiology, Department of Zoology, Cambridge, in 1953, the original stock having been collected in the Cambridge area in 1950. It has since been maintained continuously under laboratory conditions, being supplemented from time to time with further quantities from the Unit of Insect Physiology.

DESCRIPTIVE

Pieris brassicae Linn. ab. *marginavenata* (ab. nov.)

Characterised by the veins on the underside of the hindwing being stressed by borders of black and grey scales. The area where the veins converge at the wing base is densely suffused with black scales. The borders taper towards the wing margin. When examined under magnification, the veins are seen to be clad with yellow scales which stand out from dark borders, as in *Pieris napi* Linn.

The discal spots on the underside of the forewing are pale brown instead of the black of type specimens, and the lower spot is greatly reduced.

The upperside is normal except for a slight increase in black scaling at the basal areas of all four wings, i.e., a tendency towards ab. *basinigrescens* (Graham Smith and Graham Smith).

Wing span 54 mm. Normal wingspan for the laboratory colony males is 58.5 mm.

Holotype ♂. Bred from a continuous brooded culture kept under laboratory conditions for 17 years since 1950. The specimen is figured on the accompanying plate and is in the author's collection.

Paratype. One other specimen from the same brood. This specimen was damaged during attempts at breeding and is also in the author's collection.

Type Locality. The original stock from which this aberration arose was collected in the Cambridge area in 1950.

COMPARATIVE

1. ab. *anthrax*. Graham Smith and Graham Smith (1930) described and figured a male ab. *anthrax*: "In a male of this series the undersides of the hindwings are so densely suffused with black scales that they have a very dark appearance".

2. ab. *venata*. Verity (1908) described and illustrated ab. *venata*. He stated "Les nervures du revers chez le male et des deux surfaces chez la female sont vaguement teintée d'un gris-violet" i.e. the veins themselves are tinted with grey-violet scales.

The author has compared the present aberration with specimens of ab. *anthrax* (Graham Smith and Graham Smith) and ab. *venata* (Verity) in the British Museum collection at Tring, and it does not resemble either of them.

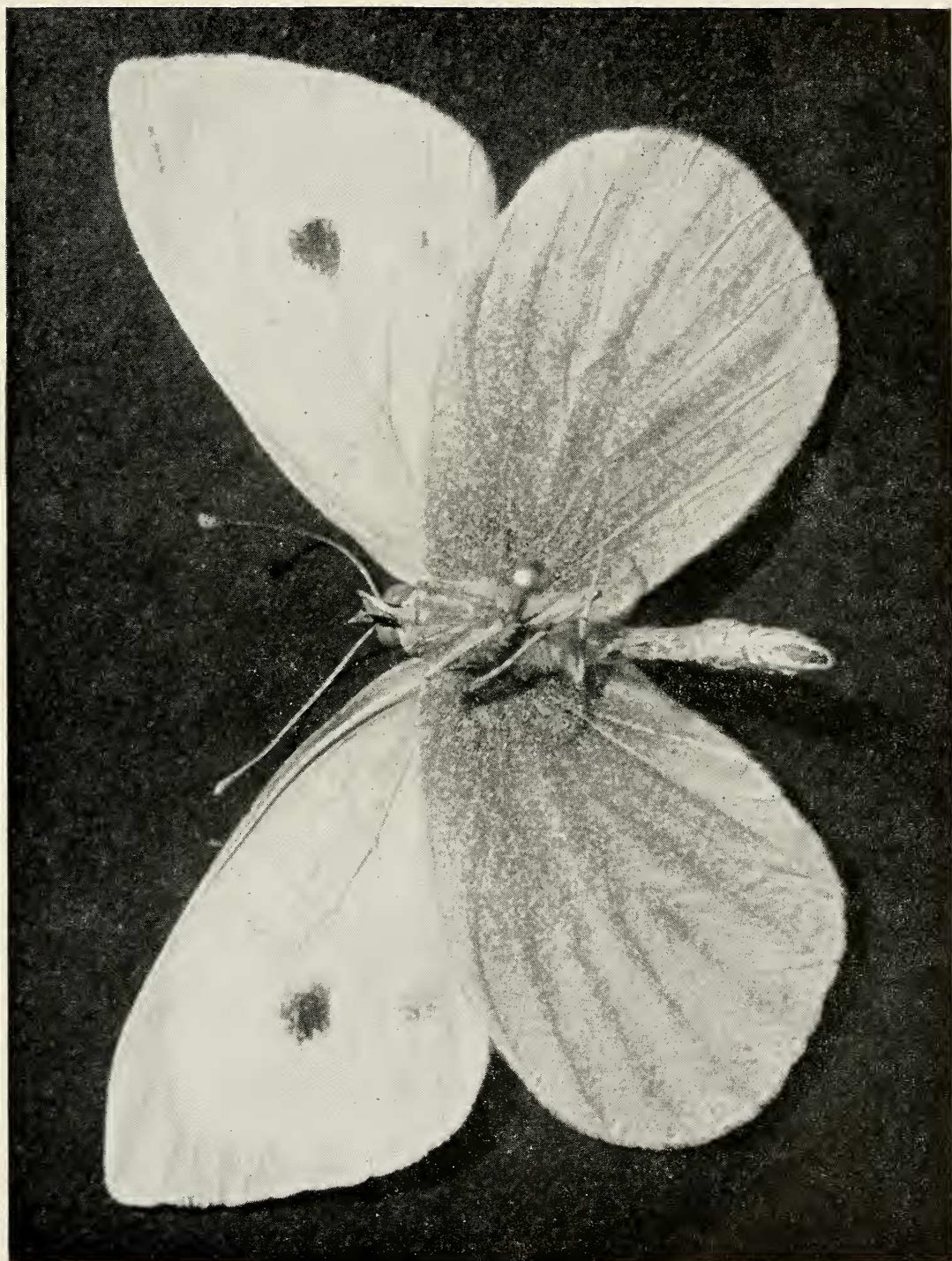
3. ab. *plasschaerti* Dufrane (1912).

"Les ailes postérieurs, en dessous, sont fortement saupoudrées d'atomes noirs, surtout les nervures qui paraissent presque noirs". i.e. the underside of the hindwings are strongly powdered with black atoms especially along the veins which appear almost black.

Graham Smith and Graham Smith (1930) wrongly quoted ab. *plasschaerti* as a synonym for ab. *venata* Verity. Dufrane (1930) quickly re-asserted again that ab. *plasschaerti* is a separate aberration. He accompanied further description with a photograph but unfortunately it depicted the upperside only and failed to show the main character.

Dufrane's further description translates as follows: "In *plasschaerti*, on the contrary, the forewings are very curious; they are excessively pointed at the apex which is largely black. The apical patch extends strongly along the outside edge almost reaching vein 2 while that of the type scarcely reaches vein 3. The edge is bordered with black along its length from base to apex, while underneath the apex is lightly tinted with a very pale yellow. There is also the size of the two black (discal) spots underneath, in which the upper is almost as big as in a type, while the lower is small".

Dufrane continues: "The form *venata* Verity and the form *plasschaerti* are of the spring generation. My aberration should therefore have the characteristics of *chariclea* Stephens: apical patch light grey with slight indentations, underneath the hindwings powdered with blackish, fringes yellowish. In *plasschaerti*, the character of the underside of the hindwings is very marked, as I said in my description (1912),



Pieris brassicae L. ab. *marginavenata* ab. nov.